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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,689	10/03/2003	Ian A. Cody	JJK-0330(P2002J098)	9953
27810	7590	01/26/2006	EXAMINER	
EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY P.O. BOX 900 1545 ROUTE 22 EAST ANNANDALE, NJ 08801-0900			NGUYEN, TAM M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1764	

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/678,689

Applicant(s)

CODY ET AL.

Examiner

Tam M. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/16/04, 6/1/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xiao et al. (6,264,826).

Xiao discloses a process for preparing lubricating base oils from a sulfur containing feedstock. The feedstock comprising greater than 50 wt.% of wax is fed into a mild hydrotreating zone wherein nitrogen and sulfur compounds are removed. The hydrotreating zone is operated at a temperature of from 260 to 427° C, at a pressure of from less than 11 Mpa, at LHSV of about 0.5, and at hydrogen rate of about 722 m³/m³. The hydrotreating is operated so that the conversion is less than 5%. The effluent from the hydrotreating zone is passed into a separation to separate gas from a liquid product which is then fed into a dewaxing zone containing a dewaxing catalyst including ZSM-23 and SAPO-11, a metal hydrogenation component (e.g., Pt or Pd). The dewaxing process is operated at temperature of from 400 to 900° F, at a pressure of from .45 to 20.8 Mpa, at LHSV of from about 0.1 to 5 hr⁻¹, and at hydrogen gas rates of from 89.1 to 1780 m³/m³. The product from the dewaxing zone is then passed into a hydrofinishing zone to provide a final product. (See col. 2, line 51 through col. 6, line 59; col. 8, line 53 through col. 10, line 40)

Xiao does not teach that the hydrotreated feedstock has VI increase less than 4 greater than the VI of the feedstock.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the process of Xiao by operating the hydrotreating zone at even more mild conditions to produce a hydrotreated product having VI increase less than 4 greater than the VI of the feedstock as claimed because operating the hydrotreating zone at severe conditions would produce a desired low sulfur product, but such conditions would cost

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more to operate and would hydrogenate desirable products such as olefins. Therefore, one of skill in the art would select to operate the Xiao process to produce a hydrotreated product as claimed when one desires to operate the hydrotreating zone with no hydrogenation or very little hydrogenation of desirable products (e.g., olefins.).

Claims 11-15 and 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xiao et al. (6,264,826) in view of Kresge et al. (5,837,639)

Xiao does not disclose that the hydrotreating catalyst (hydrofinishing catalyst) is MCM-41.

Kresge teaches the use of MCM-41 as a hydrotreating catalyst. (See col. 4, lines 57-68; col. 5, lines 1-16; col. 33, lines 33-37)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the process of Xiao by using MCM-41 as a hydrofinishing catalyst because Kresge teaches that MCM-41 is a highly effective hydrotreating catalyst.

Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over references as applied to claims 1-4 and 15 above, and further in view of either Lucien et al. (4,906,350) or Cody et al. (5,935,417)

Both Lucien and Cody teach that ZSM-5 and/or ZSM-48 can be utilized in a dewaxing process. (See Lucien, claim 2; Cody; col. 7, lines 10-16)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the process of Baker by using a second catalyst such as ZSM-5 because both Lucien and Cody teaches that ZSM-5 and ZSM-48 can be used as a dewaxing catalyst.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tam M. Nguyen
Examiner
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TN

 1/23/06